

TESTIMONY REGARDING RAISED BILL NO.5550  
LAND CONVEYANCE BILL 2014 Sec.11  
March 17, 2014

I'm Ellen Lukens of 46 Pine St., Middletown, Ct. and am very concerned about the preservation of Maromas lands in Middletown and specifically the Connecticut Valley Hospital watershed lands. I am, therefore, very enthusiastic about the passage of Raised Bill 5550.

However, there is one section that I hope that you will be willing to amend. The end of the first sentence of the bill, "PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO ABANDON THE RESERVOIRS ON SAID PARCELS." should be omitted.

I don't understand the purpose of waiting. Why not grant conservation easements to a non-profit now?

The last sentence of the bill says "NO PROVISION OF SUCH EASEMENTS SHALL PREVENT THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES OR ITS SUCCESSORS FROM USING SAID PARCELS FOR ANY ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN OR FROM TAKING STEPS AS THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS NECESSARY TO LIMIT ACCESS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE WATER SUPPLY".

The above should allay DMHAS's concerns. To me this means that DMHAS will not lose control over its water supply and the integrity of it.

So why not grant easements NOW to a non-profit organization that will guarantee the preservation as of 2014 rather than possibly at a later date? Your committee would make possible the immediate, very appropriate transfer of watershed lands, with the guarantee that the reservoirs will continue to be a water resource for DMHAS, besides permanently protecting approximately 500 acres of land in Maromas forever.

Again, please omit the line "PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO ABANDON THE RESERVOIRS ON SAID PARCELS".

Thank you,

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